

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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1. (Currently Amended) A composition for topical application [for extemporaneous preparation,] comprising [ascorbic acid and a suitable support, the ascorbic acid being obtained by bringing] at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters [into contact with] and at least one enzyme that [is capable of converting] converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. Canceled.

5. Canceled.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

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CONT.
8. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [claims] 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from micro-organisms [,particularly differentiated or dedifferentiated cells obtained *in vivo* or *in vitro*].

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in an encapsulated form.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in the form of microcapsules or microgranules.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is in the form of a crude [total] extract, a purified enzyme solution, an enzyme immobilized [immobilised] on a matrix, [in particular on a sol-gel matrix,] in the solid or liquid form, in the liquid or solid freeze-dried form, or included in a controlled release device.

14. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein [where] said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.05% to 30% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein [where] said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

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cont. 16. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein [where] said at least one precursor is present in a quantity of 0.01% to 50% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein [where] said at least one precursor is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

18-30. Withdrawn.

31. (New) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

32. (New) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

33. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from *in vivo*- or *in vitro*- obtained differentiated or dedifferentiated cells.

34. (New) The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises ascorbic acid.

35. (New) The composition of claim 13, wherein said matrix is a sol-gel matrix.
